

The One-Trick Pony and Other Concerns

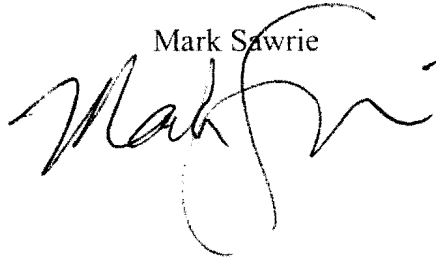
An Honors Thesis (HONRS 499)

by

Amelia Morris

Thesis Advisor

Mark Sawrie

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Sawrie', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Ball State University

Muncie, Indiana

May 2008

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Abstract

My Honors 499 project, *The One-Trick Pony and Other Concerns*, works in conjunction with my ART 480 (Senior Project in Photography) requirements. I have executed a body of eleven photographs, cohesive in both style and subject matter, which were exhibited in the Atrium Gallery from April 8-12. The project serves as a way to acknowledge the introspective subject of personal anxieties while exploring the photographic effects created through using paper negatives produced in a color darkroom. The project has also given me a way to learn more about self-promotion, gallery installation, and the rigors of working independently from a classroom assignment.

Artist Statement for *The One-Trick Pony and Other Concerns*

I have always valued the content behind an image. As a consequence, when evaluating my own work, I feel the greatest connection to images that have an autobiographical element. *The One-Trick Pony and Other Concerns* has allowed me to express my anxieties about relationships, the future, my health, and other issues that have come to a head over the past year. While the images were originally intended to be personal and rather cryptic statements, I have discovered that many of the photographs hold universal meaning while the objects or written statements captured in these photographs still take on new meaning from viewer to viewer. For example, where I may see an image as a commentary on private relationships, another person could see it as a statement on domesticity and banal lifestyles. In a way, this proves that we are all nervous about some aspect of ourselves, but we are never really that isolated from each other.

The saturated color in this body of work is achieved through the use of slide film and paper negatives. The objects or self-portraits were taken using large or medium format slide film. I use these positives in a darkroom enlarger to create sixteen by twenty inch negatives on photographic paper, which are then contact printed to create the final images presented here. While I enjoy this rather masochistic process immensely, working in an obscure technique created anxieties of its own. The technology that allows wet processing for color photographs is rapidly disappearing, and our department's color processing facilities have been in jeopardy of failure since early in the semester. I feel fortunate that I have been able to experiment with this process for the past year, the conclusion of this project and moving away from these facilities is bittersweet. This may be my last opportunity to work in this way. Now that I have finally fallen in love with color photography, I find it time to say goodbye to the medium as I know it.

I would like to thank Mark Sawrie for his guidance, support, and friendship both in this semester and the past three years. I would also like to thank Jacinda Russell for helping me lay the framework for this particular project and for always having a wonderful listening ear. This project and many others could not have been completed without the help of Serena Nancarrow. Thank you for making the photo-world run a little smoother.

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BFA Honors Thesis in Photography
by Amelia Morris

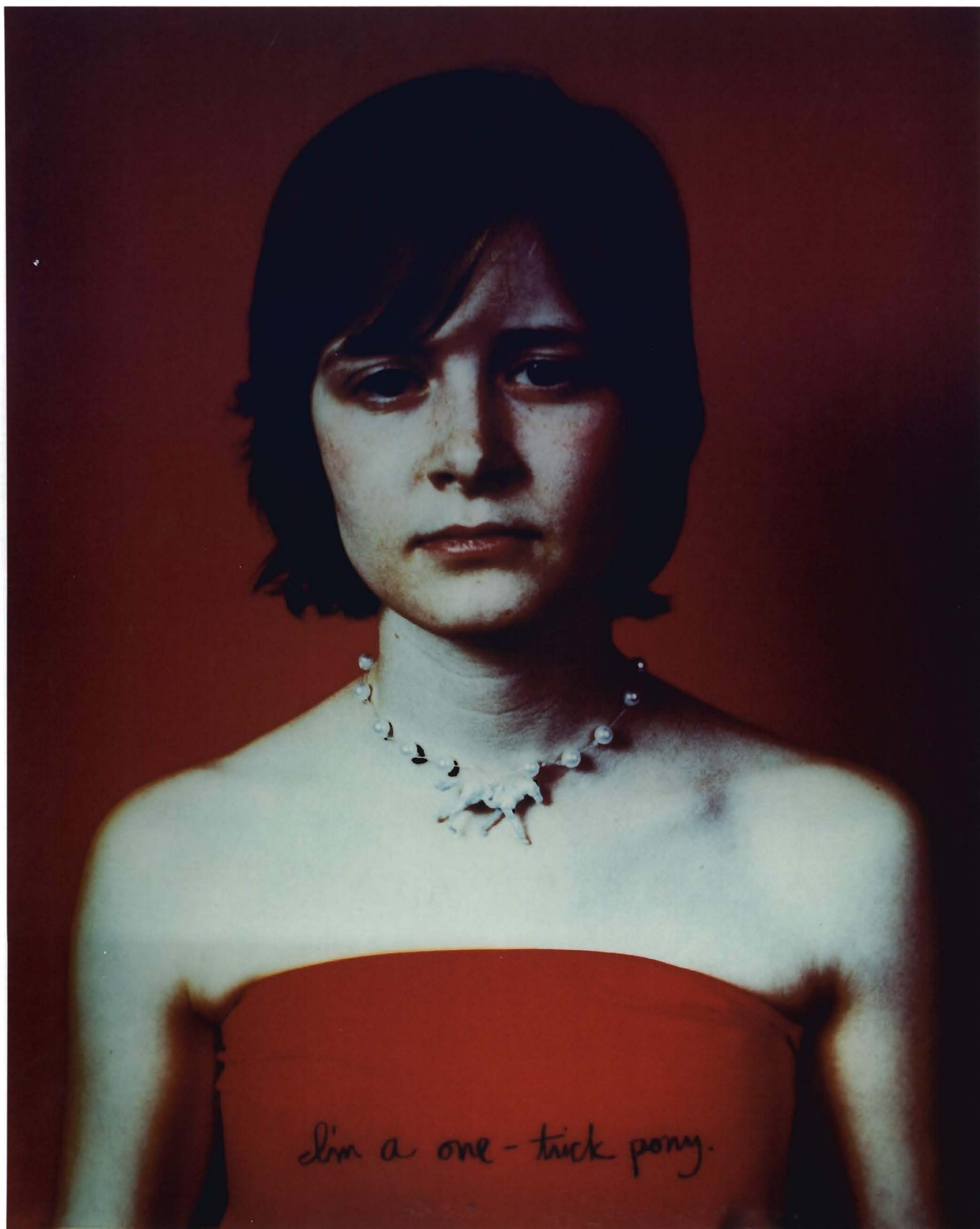
Atrium Gallery
Arts and Journalism Building
Ball State University
Muncie, IN
April 8-12, 2008

Reception
Thursday, April 10, 4-6 pm

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I'm a one-trick pony.



I'm a one-trick pony.



I'll get bored.



I'll reject it all.



l'im incompréhensible.



Ill prove too fragile.



all disconnect.



I'll become obsessed.



I'd be traded.



I'll lose faith.



I'll self-destruct.



I won't feel better.